



The Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2706

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Niobrara Valley Hospital in Lynch, NE, is one of the many hospitals and clinics supported by Faith Regional Health Services (FRHS). FRHS has been a godsend for rural health services in this area of Nebraska where we live. Without our hospital's association with FRHS, not only would we be unable to afford normal and customary health services, which people in more populated areas of Nebraska take for granted, we would also have to travel extended distances (over 45 miles one way) to get to a hospital where modern and current technology is available.

Having worked in the technology industry for over 30 years, I understand how difficult it is for businesses in rural areas to be able to afford modern and state of the art equipment which, in the telephone industry, customers demand, and in the medical profession, services that are mandated by Congress such as Congress's EMR mandate. FRHS is in the middle of a \$10 million electronic health record implementation and it would like to extend the benefits of this system to its rural partners in Northeast Nebraska. FRHS's efforts would provide our rural hospitals and clinics access to the most advanced medical imaging technology, they would also give our clinicians immediate access to medical history, test results, and tele-assessments.

Currently, Congressional funds are available to help offset the costs of such an endeavor. We in Northeast Nebraska are excited about what these Congressional funds could do for our healthcare system. I personally would like your consideration and support of what we think and hope you agree, is a very worthy cause.

Thank-You!!!

Sincerely,

Neil K Classen
General Manger/Three River Telco